



On the Green—A publication for Gallaudet faculty, teachers, and staff
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Gallaudet experts give keynote presentation at White House for National Disability Awareness Month



Pausing at a presidential seal and a bust of President Dwight Eisenhower in the Old Executive Office Building of the White House following their October 27 presentation for National Disability Awareness Month are (from left): Daniel Timlen, Dr. Patricia Tesar, and Arthur Roehrig.

Gallaudet was honored by the White House with an invitation to give a presentation in the President's Briefing Room in the West Wing of the Old Executive Office Building in recognition of October as National Disability Awareness Month.

The October 27 presentation, entitled "Making the Vision a Reality: Promoting Successful Employment Outcomes for Adults with Disabilities," was given to staff in the Office of Management and Budget by Dr. Patricia Tesar, coordinator of the Office for Students with Disabilities, Daniel Timlen, interim director of the Career Center, and Arthur Roehrig, academic support services counselor for OSWD and vice-president for the American Association of the Deaf-Blind.

The invitation followed a conversation last summer between Tesar and Dr. Catherine Ingold, deputy director of the National Foreign Language Center at the University of Maryland and former provost at Gallaudet, about Tesar's 2002 dissertation research entitled "Characteristics of Support Service Programs Essential for Deaf Post-Secondary Students Diagnosed with Learning Disabilities." A short time later, Linda Sites, Equal Employment Opportunity Commission director for the White House, contacted Ingold for recommendations on a presenter for National Disability Awareness Month. Recalling her meeting with Tesar, Ingold passed along her name, and Tesar was contacted by the White House, asking her to present the keynote address.

Because the focus of President Bush's proclamation for the nation-

al recognition month was the administration's recognition of "... the many contributions citizens with disabilities make to our society," and to "... reaffirm our commitment to helping them achieve their full inclusion in our workforce," Tesar felt that the presentation should include Timlen's and Roehrig's expertise. In preparing for the presentation, Sites and Jaki Hurwitz, budget preparation specialist and legislative branch examiner at OMB, as well as voluntary co-chair on the OMB Diversity Council, worked with Gallaudet to coordinate the event.

The program began with an introduction by Christopher Kuczynski, who coordinates federal government activities in support of the New Freedom Initiative, Bush's comprehensive plan for the full integration of people with disabilities into all aspects of American life, for the White House Domestic Policy Counsel. Kuczynski served as special assistant to U.S. EEOC Chair Cari Dominguez and as assistant legal counsel and director of the EEOC's Americans with Disabilities Act Policy Division.

During the presentation, Tesar used thought-provoking quotes, client experiences, and excerpts from her dissertation to stress the importance of promoting a sense of autonomy and personal competence, individual resiliency, and personal self-efficacy beliefs as a means of fostering persistence toward goal attainment, academic achievement, and career success of disabled adults. "There is no doubt that we, as a society, need to further examine the reasons for such vast unemployment among one of our nations most valuable untapped resources," said Tesar. "It is only when everyone realizes that we are all equal, valued, and worthy, will adults with disabilities enjoy the same opportunities."

Timlen addressed unemployment among people with disabilities and pointed out the disproportionate number of disabled Americans who remain unemployed. He said that attitudinal barriers and stereotyping are primary reasons for continued unemployment of disabled adults. Through collaborative team building, employment support, raising employer expectations, and

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This year's President's Fellows are shown with Provost Jane Fernandes and Sociology Chair and President's Fellows Committee

Co-chair Sharon Barnartt. The President's Fellows, along with the departments they work in and the institutions where they are continuing their education, are (from left): John "Parker" Kennedy, Freshman Year Experience and Communication Studies, Capella University; Colleen Callahan, History and Government, George Washington University; Jason Lamberton, Mathematics and Computer Science, George Washington University; [Dr. Barnartt and Dr. Fernandes]; Lynda Myers, Social Work, Clinical Social Work Institute, Inc., and Andy Tao, Biology, University of Maryland. President's Fellows are deaf or hard of hearing individuals with college degrees who the University assists in continuing their graduate education in the hope that they will return and share their talents as faculty members on Kendall Green.

Applications, nominations issued for Diversity Fellow in President's Office

(Editor's note: The following announcement was made in an October 29 campus e-mail from President Jordan in response to recommendations that emerged during the Campus Climate Process.)

The University president is committed to a Gallaudet community where diversity is understood and valued; where diversity is acknowledged as an educational opportunity as well as an educational asset; and where all students, employees, and guests feel welcome and safe. At Gallaudet, addressing diversity will mean going beyond affirmative action and recognition of differences to working toward creating an environment where everyone feels welcome and valued.

To achieve this commitment, a

team of individuals, including one from the President's Office, one from the Division of Academic Affairs, and one from the Division of Administration and Finance, will collaborate on the development, implementation, evaluation, and institutionalization of comprehensive diversity initiatives which are both all encompassing and exclusive to specific groups. The charge to the team will include, and may not be limited to, working collaboratively with various units on campus to:

- Identify opportunities for intellectual engagement that will deepen the community's understanding of diversity;
- Develop cultural competence by designing training programs that educate members of the

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Popular designations for Campus Community Campaign funds listed

Have you given to the Campus Community Campaign yet? Here are last year's top five faculty and staff designations:


1. **Fund for Gallaudet**-Provides support to the area of greatest need.
2. **Linwood Smith Memorial Fund**-Provides scholarships for African American junior, senior, and graduate students.
3. **General Endowed Scholarships**-Provides scholarships for deserving students.
4. **Student Academic Center Construction**-Provided financial support for the construction of the new Student Academic Center. (This designation is no longer available now that the building construction has been completed.)
5. (Tie) **Stephanie Joyner Scholarship Fund**-Provides scholarships for a senior graduating from MSSD, to be used for post-secondary training or education, and **We Care Fund**-Provides holiday gifts to families, financial assistance for summer camp, and necessity items for designated KDES and MSSD families in need.

To search for a fund that matches your interests, go to <http://support.gallaudet.edu/givingoppty/search.cfm>. For more information on gift designations, contact James Johnson (james.johnson@gallaudet.edu) or go to <https://support.gallaudet.edu/gift/payroll/index.cfm> to make a secure online payroll deduction pledge or credit card gift. **G**

Input sought on research priorities

A working group of 35 faculty, staff, and students gathered on October 22 to review Gallaudet's list of research priorities and to suggest revisions. This list—last revised three years ago—is required by Gallaudet's enabling legislation. It is intended to publicly announce the kinds of deafness-related research Gallaudet is most interested in pursuing. It is also used as the basis for making awards from Gallaudet's Priority Research Fund.

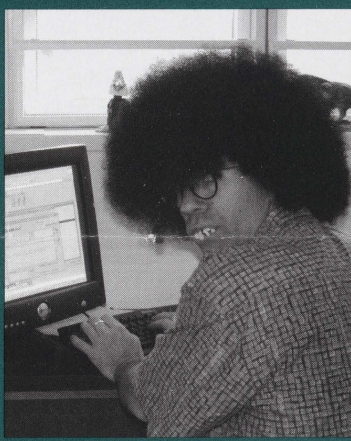
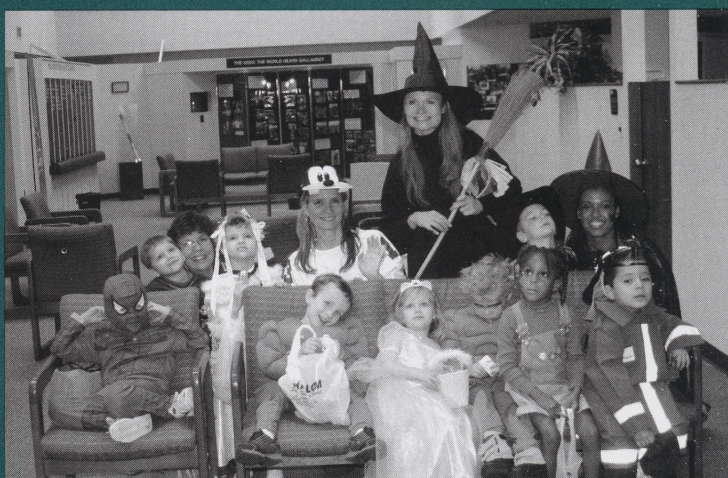
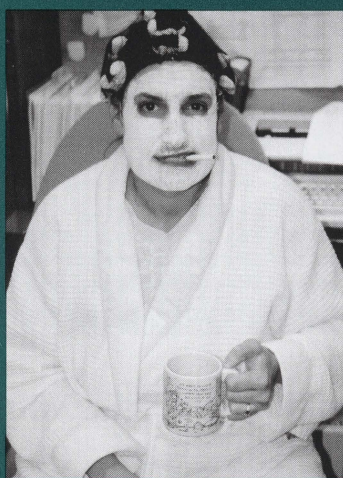
The new list of priorities is still in draft form. The campus community is invited to comment or suggest changes by sending an e-mail to GRI research associate Senda Benaissa (senda.benaissa@gallaudet.edu). She will forward these to the working group. Input must be received before Thanksgiving.

To see a draft of the revised list that resulted from the October 22 meeting, click on the following URL: gri.gallaudet.edu/PrioritiesDraft.pdf. To see the research priorities list that the University has been using since FY 2000, click on the following URL: gri.gallaudet.edu/priorities.html. 

(Editor's note: the preceding information was excerpted from a November 7 campus e-mail from Gallaudet Research Institute Director Michael Karchmer.)



The daily routine on Kendall Green turned a bit wacky on Halloween, as these photos illustrate. (Top) Members of the Public Relations, Development, and Alumni Relations offices portray the Institutional Advancement Gift Patrol, popping in on campus offices and presenting an oversized check for \$9.1 million (the amount of funding that the Development staff raised in FY 2003) to surprised recipients and interviewing them on what they would do with the money. (See *Roving Reporter*, page 3.) (Middle row, from left) Elaine Vance, manager of benefits and compensation records in the Personnel Office, reveals her elfish side. Denise West, administrative secretary in the Department of Foreign Languages, Literatures, and Cultures, takes on the persona of a grumpy old lady. Clerc Center Early Childhood Education Team Teachers (back row from, from left) Nancy Topolosky, Senoa Goehring, Tamara Jo Beatty, and Tyese Wright and their students pause from trick-or-treating in the EMG Building lobby. (Bottom row, from left) Suzy McKenzie, secretary, and Stephanie Dickens, telecommunications specialists, both of Information Technology Services, show their alter egos. Who does Rock Lemery need most, a dentist or a barber? Fortune teller Meghan Blackmon moonlights as a Bookstore cashier.



Administration & Finance

Student Advisory Board gives feedback on A&F services

To many students, Gallaudet is "home," whether it is for one semester or five years. While students are on campus, A&F wants them to be comfortable and satisfied with the services that are provided by all the departments within the division.

To that end, A&F established a Student Advisory Board to give feedback on services offered. The board held its first meeting November 6, and members provided representatives from A&F with suggestions and complaints from students. Some of the service issues discussed were resolved at the meeting, while others required some investigation. All of the board's comments and the responses to them from departments within A&F were distributed to the entire student body shortly after the meeting.

Students are encouraged to share any suggestions or complaints with members of the board so that the information can be brought to the next board meeting on December 4.

Members of the Student


Advisory Board are: Jason Bailey, Jose Cervantes, Andrew Chambers, Emily Erlandson, Jennifer Keener, Caroline Kobek, Jessica Meehan, Amy Nelson, Jin Pae, Noel Rivera, and Mary Walters.

A&F continually reviews and works to improve service to the campus community. It appreciates these students taking their time to help it achieve its goal of quality service to everyone at Gallaudet.

PPD work request form online

Work requests can be sent to PPD electronically. The request will go into PPD's system and senders will receive an acknowledgment of their request. When the work has been completed, they will get an electronic notice that the work is finished. At that time they can give PPD feedback through the Customer Survey Form link that will be on the completion notice.

PPD is eager to receive feedback from the community on how it can be of better service. Please take a few minutes to look at the Work Request form and use it the next time a work request arises. The form can be accessed through: ppd.gallaudet.edu

Make it a shortcut on your desktop! 

Diversity Fellow sought

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community about multicultural issues, both legal and moral, and about appropriate behaviors;

- Recommend approaches for including multiculturalism in teaching and research; and
- Propose strategies for recruitment and retention of a diverse student body and workforce.

It is anticipated that this appointment will last up to two years depending, in part, on outcomes. The appointment may also be extended if necessary. This is a full year position; therefore, faculty would receive an 11-month appointment.

Applicants should be full-time regular status faculty, staff, or teachers. The selected individual will be assured of returning to his/her position upon completion of the project.




President Jordan receives an award for 30 years of service to the University from Board of Trustees Chair Glenn Anderson at the October 17 board meeting.

AMONG OURSELVES

David Schleper, literacy coordinator for the Clerc Center, presented on the Shared Reading Project and the Nine Areas of Literacy at the National Symposium on Childhood Deafness conference in October, in Sioux Falls, S.D.

Interested individuals should demonstrate a strong interest and commitment to diversity. Their background should include experience working with diversity initiatives and/or diverse groups.

Applicants should submit a resume that describes their relevant background and a written description of their vision for a model diversity program, how they will go about achieving that vision, and what resources would be necessary.

Applications or nominations should be submitted to the Office of the President, attention Denise Hanlon, no later than December 5. 



ON THE GREEN

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STUDENT AFFAIRS *Exposé*

Continuing the legacy: Judicial Affairs introduces outreach



Photo by: Sung Park

Eloise Molock and Oscar Ocuto discuss strategies for Judicial Affairs 2003-2004.

By Eloise Molock and Oscar Ocuto

The Office of Judicial Affairs has some new faces in place to continue the legacy of student behavioral resolution at Gallaudet University. Eloise Molock takes the helm as the Judicial Affairs coordinator, along with Oscar Ocuto as the new Judicial Affairs program specialist. The Judicial Affairs program specialist is a newly created position designed to extend the educational component of the program through outreach.

Both Molock and Ocuto hold master's degrees from Gallaudet University (Department of Counseling, '82, and the Department of Education, '03, respectively). Ocuto also completed his undergraduate degree at Gallaudet. As a team, they rely on their unique combination of expertise, knowledge, and connectivity to the Gallaudet community to reach students and decrease the number of incidents that actually require adjudication.

The Judicial Affairs program

operates on the philosophy that discipline is a constructive element of education. Thereby, the judicial process is designed to maximize the educational experience of the students involved. The goal is to educate students about choices and decision-making as it relates to a particular violation of the student code of conduct.

For instance, Ocuto has given presentations to the University community that cover moral judgment, ethics, academic integrity, civility, role modeling, and leadership. Thus far, the audiences have involved the paraprofessionals, First Year Seminar teaching assistant classes, and the Honors FYS students as well. The main goal of the presentations is to provide students with the information they need in order to make responsible and ethical decisions while in college before facing the competitive job market after graduation.

Another component of outreach is involvement in community programs, such as the collaborative work done through Conquering Addiction through Resources and Education for Students. Several area consortium colleges and universities participate in this program, which is geared towards taking proactive steps in helping stu-

dents maximize their college experiences in a safe and responsible manner, and reducing infractions or health/safety issues related to alcohol and other drugs abuse.

Molock and Ocuto will also be developing a brochure for faculty to assist with addressing incivility in the classroom.

Ideas or suggestions for the inclusion of Judicial Affairs in the classroom, workplace, or the University community are encouraged. They can be e-mailed to Molock and Ocuto, or better yet, stop by the Judicial Affairs office in the Ely Center, Room #103. **G**

ASK AUNT SOPHIE

Dear Aunt Sophie,

I'm a staff member and keep hearing about GDOC accounts. I thought these were only for students taking courses, but now it seems there may be something in it for me and other staff people. Do you have any idea? And what I can do if I don't have a GDOC password?

Techo-Inquiring Staffer

Dear Techo,

Whatever possessed you to think dear old Auntie could answer this question? She still relies on her once-elegant-and-ever-faithful Corona electric for typing all her correspondence, for heaven's sake!

Nevertheless, I looked into this matter and learned several things. First, this GDOC you mention is NOT the name of a Star Wars robot. Rather, it's quite a lovely option that you and other computer enthusiasts should consider. According to Cindy King over in Academic Technology, GDOC is computer talk for a software system that will let you create a personalized web page—right on your very own Gallaudet computer, no less! You can add lovely little buttons that will connect you with all kinds of information—newspapers' funny pages, your great-grandmother's home page, the weather, sports scores, as well as various Gallaudet sites. And while Dr. King kindly provided me with a thorough description of GDOC's inner workings and outer merits, I fear that I cannot summarize it in this space in a manner that does it full justice. What you should do is check out GDOC yourself. If you don't recall your password (everyone was given one some time back), request a new one: passwords.gallaudet.edu. Otherwise, go to my.gallaudet.edu and rummage around the site to find out how you might make it fit your personality.

CAMPUS CALENDAR

November

21—Undergraduate Open House, Conference Center and Hotel, 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.; Stafford Loan exit interviews for December graduates, until December 5, College Hall G102, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Fall theatre production—*ZOOT SUIT*, Elstad Auditorium, 8 p.m.

22—Fall theatre production—*ZOOT SUIT*, Elstad Auditorium, 8 p.m.

26-28—No Classes

27-28—Thanksgiving Holiday

29-30—Women's Basketball Holiday Tournament, Saturday at 6 p.m. and 8 p.m., Sunday at 1 p.m. and 3 p.m.

December

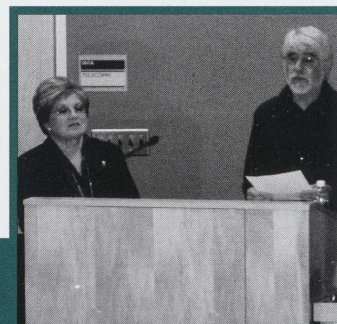
1—Application deadline for December and May graduations, Chapel Hall 101; PFLAG monthly meeting, HMB S135, 7:30-9 p.m.

2—Free chair massage—students only, SUB L040, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.; Scholars' Forum, featuring Department of Family and Child Studies, HMB E150, 12-1 p.m.

3—Alcoholics Anonymous meeting, SUB L040, 7-8 p.m.

5—Fall semester classes end; "Deaf Resources: A Workshop," must be registered for this event, Merrill Learning Center, LN-11, 8:45 a.m.-noon; Last day for consortium registration for spring 2004 semester, Chapel Hall 101; Graduate students—last day to change Incomplete grades from previous semester and last day to withdraw with WP/WF grade, forms must be signed and returned to the Registrar's Office by 4:30 p.m., Chapel Hall 101; Last day for Stafford Loan exit interviews for December graduates, College Hall G102, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Charlene Schiff (left), a member of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Speakers Bureau, gave her story of how she survived the Holocaust during the years of Nazi occupation of Poland at an October 30 presentation in the SAC. The lecture was sponsored by English professor Harry Markowicz (right) and The First Year Experience. Schiff's appearance was the second half of a two-part series related to Markowicz's course in which the students are studying Art Spiegelman's Pulitzer Prize-winning *Maus*, a book that graphically describes his parents' experience in the Holocaust. The first lecture, entitled "Nazi Persecution of People with Disabilities: Sterilization and 'Euthanasia' Policies," was presented by Dr. Patricia Heberer, an historian with the Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies, the scholarly wing of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. Heberer serves as the museum's in-house expert on medical crimes and eugenics policies in Nazi Germany. The course is linked with a class at Talpiot College, in Tel Aviv, Israel. The Israeli students watched both lectures in a webcast produced by the Gallaudet Television and Media Production Department. [The presentations can be viewed at video.gallaudet.edu]



ROVING REPORTER

The following individuals were approached by the 'IA Gift Patrol' on Halloween and asked: What would you do if you won \$9.1 million from Publishers' Clearinghouse?



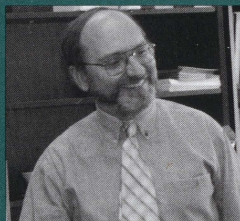
MJ Bienvenu, instructor, ASL and Deaf Studies:

First of all, I would use much of it to improve the New York Yankees and also give \$2 million toward the construction of the new Language and Communication Center. (Rabid Red Sox fan reporter's note: &%\$#@&+*^.)



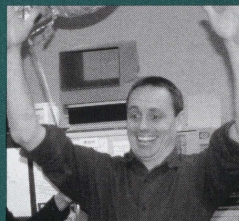
Jane Fernandes, provost:

I would definitely give some to Gallaudet and then plan on a retirement move back to Hawaii.



Tom Allen, dean, Graduate School and Professional Programs:

I would donate all of the money to Gallaudet. (Reporter's note: Is he serious??!!)



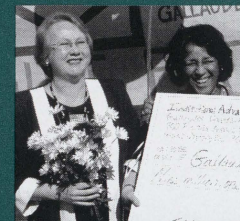
Dirkson Bauman, assistant professor, ASL and Deaf Studies:

I'd buy a hot tub, contribute a lot toward the new Language and Communication Center, and help students with their education.



Karen Kimmel, associate dean, CLAST:

I would definitely contribute a lot toward the new [Language and Communication Center] building. No, I wouldn't retire.



Jane Dillehay, professor, Biology:

First thing I would do is buy a good cup of coffee, then donate the rest to Gallaudet.

Ann Powell, professor/chair, Biology:

I would buy a lot of cadavers and up-to-date equipment for the Biology Department. I would also help as many students as I could with their financial situation.



CLERC CENTER HAPPENINGS

MSSD students present science data at International GLOBE Learning Expedition in Croatia

By Mary Ellsworth

Recent MSSD graduates Kristen Suiter and Rachel Burton joined 200 students from 24 countries to present their research findings at the GLOBE Learning Expedition in Sibenik, Croatia, June 29 to July 4. The GLOBE program is an international Earth science research and hands-on education program.


Suiter, Burton, and their two partners, Amanda Krieger and Bethany Shelly from the Indiana School for the Deaf, presented their project, entitled "Using GLOBE Atmospheric Measurements and Fall Leaf Reflectance." The students wrote the report about research done as collaborations between science classes at the two schools, and submitted it to GLOBE in hopes of winning a chance to present in Croatia. The U.S. held a competition and selected 14 student reports to represent America at the expedition. Student papers covered a range of scientific measurements and represented the diverse regions and communities of the United States.

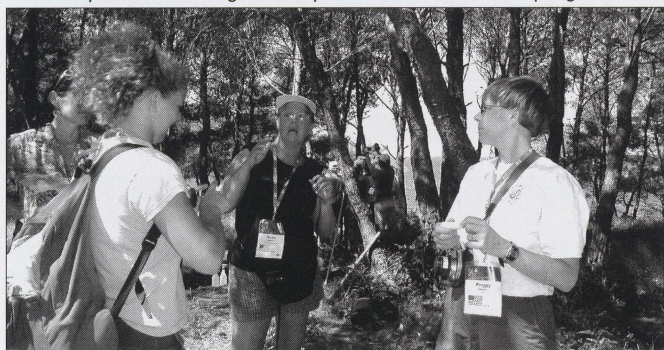
The international conference was a forum for student teams to present the results of Earth science research projects about the atmosphere, climate, hydrology, soil, land cover/biology, and phenology—the science dealing with relations between climate and biological phenomena such as bird migrations or plants flowering. The expe-

dition gave students an opportunity to experience a new environment, meet other international participants, and learn from GLOBE scientists.

Burton said, "I've been to Europe before, but [at the GLE] there were so many different cultures all in one place. There were Czech, Polish, German, Ukrainian, Bahrain people, and more! It was quite an experience for us to work together, even though not all of us spoke the same language. [GLOBE] collaboration really impressed me, too. ...students from completely different continents can work together on a project."

Conference activities included fieldwork led by GLOBE scientists at Krka National Park and on the island of Obonjan, and student presentations that showcased their use of Earth science data. An exhibit hall included displays from GLOBE schools around the world, including two stunning science-themed quilts made by students at MSSD and ISD.

Science teachers Mary Ellsworth and Teresa Huckleberry accompanied their students. Ellsworth is a GLOBE trainer for the Gallaudet University/CLERC Center GLOBE partnership. Huckleberry, from ISD, trained at a Gallaudet/CLERC Center workshop. The expedition was partially funded by NASA. It was co-sponsored by the Croatian Ministry of Education and the GLOBE program. 




Kristen Suiter (left) asks questions of a GLOBE scientist during a field trip on the island of Obonjan near Sibenik, Croatia.

White House presentation

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improving working conditions, said Timlen, disabled adults are more likely to attain successful employment outcomes.

Roehrig urged employers to focus on abilities, not disabilities in the hiring process. He indicated that strong support systems and collaborative efforts among disability support service agencies and employers are significant contributors to employment success. Roehrig shared his own personal story of overcoming challenges in order to achieve academic and career success.

"The feedback I received was very positive," said Hurwitz after the presentation. "Attendees found it to be an educational and inspirational program. All the speakers exuded confidence, energy, and a positive outlook that made a lasting impression. I think that the personal stories had the more profound impact on the audience. Even so, the more academic aspects of the presentation were also of great interest. I really appreciate the time and effort all of [the presenters] spent tailoring [their] presentation to accommodate my organization's objectives for this event and making it such a success." 



Dr. Isaac Agboola (left), chair of the Department of Business, recognizes Dr. Thomas Baldrige, associate professor, for 10 years of service to the University; and Qi Wang (third from left), assistant professor, and Emilia Chukwuma, associate professor, both for 15 years of service.

GSPP Portfolio

GSPP adopts vision statement

Since last summer, the faculty and staff in GSPP have been working on developing a vision statement for our school. Drafted by the chairs of GSPP departments and reviewed by all faculty and staff within GSPP, the following statement articulates the values held in common by the different departments in GSPP:


The Graduate School and Professional Programs will provide the highest quality career preparation available anywhere in the world for deaf and hard of hearing students, and, additionally, for hearing students seeking careers in professions related to providing education and human services to individuals who are deaf and hard of hearing.

Our goal is not merely to provide skills training for our students but to prepare them to become leaders who will bring about positive change and growth in their disciplines. This goal obligates and challenges our faculty to define the best practices in their disciplines through exemplary teaching, rigorous scholarship and research, and active participation with the professions in which our graduates will work. In professions that have articulated standards for accreditation, we will strive to exceed those standards and actively participate with our colleagues throughout the world in setting them.

We will develop and offer courses of study at a variety of postsecondary levels, including non-degree professional studies and training courses and certificates, undergraduate certificates, bachelor's degrees, graduate certificates, master's degrees,

specialist degrees, and doctoral degrees. To accommodate the needs of working professionals, we will develop courses of study in a variety of formats, including on campus, off campus, face-to-face and distance education. We will employ technology fully and appropriately in our curriculum.

We will nurture Gallaudet's relationship with our community through professional partnerships with schools, universities, businesses, and social service and governmental agencies, and through on-campus clinics, centers, and institutes that will offer direct professional services. These centers will provide state-of-the-art services to their constituents, provide on-site training opportunities for our students, and serve as a means for transferring knowledge gained from research into practice.

We will foster among all our students and faculty keen critical thinking skills, an embracing of diversity, an appreciation for differences in opinions, a commitment to professionalism, and a desire for life-long learning and professional growth. Our faculty, students, and staff will work, study, and learn, immersed in an environment enriched by deaf culture and American Sign Language and their interplay with English and mainstream society. The unique combination of this cultural environment and the quality of our curriculum will provide, for our students, the skills, dispositions, and values that will ensure that they will be able to lead their disciplines effectively into the future. 

Employees in the Division of Administration and Finance who have reached five-year milestones, and retirees, were recognized at A&F's annual luncheon, held October 29 in the Kellogg Conference Hotel at Gallaudet University. Among the

32 individuals who were honored were Suzanne Boland (second from left), assistant controller in the Accounting Office, and Brenda Johnson (third from left), custodian/floor maintenance in the Physical Plant Department, who ranked at the top with the most years served—30 years each. They are shown with Agnes Muse, benefits specialist in the Personnel Office and luncheon emcee, and Paul Kelly, vice-president for A&F.



In the Spotlight:
stories about us, written by you

Getting inside Dana Sipek's head

by Jane Jonas

Life is full of trial and error, as Dana Sipek discovered when she first came to Gallaudet in the fall of 2000: She dropped-out after only one semester. "I just had no desire to come back to school," she said. "I stayed at home and



Dana Sipek


worked at a local newspaper. After only two months, I got really tired of working there, and it made me realize that I'm not done with school."

When Sipek returned to Gallaudet, she first wanted to pursue her love of animals and enthusiasm for teaching by majoring in biology. But again, what looked good in theory, lost its appeal in practice. "After a year of bio, I started to get a little tired of it," she said. "I couldn't picture myself teaching." However, she is getting a clearer path on her future career this semester from taking a class entitled "Intro to Careers in Counseling and Human Services," taught by Dr. William McCrone, a professor in the Counseling Department. "I was so fascinated by this course that after the first class I just knew it was what I wanted to do," she said. "I have never left class feeling so good about myself."

Thanks to this inspirational course, Sipek wants to go to graduate school at Gallaudet and get her master's in school counseling, then find a counseling job helping children with emotional problems get the help they need.

Sipek is a striking presence around campus, with her shining blond hair and ready smile. She is also easily recognizable on the athletic field and track, where she is captain of the women's soccer team, and runs two miles a day.

Another place she can be found is the "Pink Palace," a palatial castle of a home that is mere steps from campus. Sipek also frequents local thrift stores, fueling her love of shopping by searching for hidden bargains. Another likely place to find this young lady would be on the dance floor: she co-hosted the SBG's 2002 party, "Indulge," and enjoys "some aspects of the Gallaudet social scene and the after hours entertainment in D.C." On a more academic note, she is a biology discussion group leader, a Tutorial and Instructional Programs' Study Table leader, and works for the Office for Students with Disabilities.

A woman of many talents, Sipek is living proof that "dumb blondes" are a myth, that sometimes blondes really do have more fun, and maybe her mantra, "practice happiness," really works. 

(Jane Jonas is a junior and a self-declared anthropology major. In addition to her coursework, Jonas also serves as a writer, associate editor, and webmaster of the Internet publication, Buck Naked Bison.)

(Editor's Note: On the Green welcomes your submissions to "In the Spotlight." If your article is printed, you will receive a gift certificate for the Bison Shop.)